

MEMORANDUM FOR: *The Record*

As far as I know, Levin did not read the requested documents. He insisted they be sent to his office; we refused. He took the issue of stress up with

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Date *9/17/84*

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 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
 23 March 1984

PENTAGON NOTEBOOK

The Pentagon reported this week that cost overruns on major weapons systems have been kept to a minimum in recent months. The quarterly selected acquisition reports for 64 weapons programs show cost estimates increasing for 29 programs, but dropping for 35. Altogether, this adds up to a 2 percent increase, most of this due to increases in quantities. One exception is the Navy's Tomahawk cruise missile program, which jumped from \$11.5 billion to \$13 billion (13 percent) over the three-month period due to testing and production problems.

In a related development, a CIA analyst has compared US weapons procurement procedures with those of other countries and found the United States wanting in many respects. "The very structure of the US system virtually guarantees an overly optimistic or unrealistically low base-cost estimate," the report states, while in other countries "cost estimates approximate actual costs." According to this analyst, much of the problem is caused by the "tortured triangle" of Congress, Defense Department, and industry tugging and hauling at the weapons budget.